

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a valid destination address, comprising:
  - sending an availability request to each destination address from a plurality of destination addresses, the plurality of destination addresses being correlated with a destination party, each destination address including at least a carrier identifier;
  - receiving at least one response to the sent availability requests, each received response being uniquely associated with its own destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each received response indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address; and
  - recording, for each received response, a value associated with the destination address associated with that received response, the value indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address based on the received response associated with that destination address.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - sending a text message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses for which no response was received.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - sending a text message to the destination address from the plurality of destination addresses that has an associated value of a valid destination.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
  - each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses has at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier and a device identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses has at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier, a device identifier and a gateway identifier.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
adding supplemental information to an electronic message, the supplemental information being associated with self-authentication by the destination party; and  
sending the electronic message and the added supplemental information to at least one destination address having an associated received response indicating a valid destination address.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
adding a supplemental link to an electronic message, the supplemental link being associated with a self-authentication service adapted to authenticate the destination party;  
and  
sending the electronic message and the added supplemental information to at least one destination address having an associated received response indicating a valid destination address.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
generating a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses;  
sending a message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each message being uniquely associated with a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses and including a code from the plurality of codes associated with that destination address;  
receiving a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value;

and

validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each code being uniquely associated with a time of being generated;

receiving a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and

validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes, the validated destination address indicating a carrier identifier, a network identifier and the time of the code being generated.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a valid international destination address, comprising:

reading a record associated with a destination party, the record having a plurality of destination addresses correlated with the destination party, each destination address having at least a network identifier, a carrier identifier and a device identifier;

sending an availability request to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses of the record;

receiving at least one response to the sent availability requests; and

updating the record associated with the destination party based on each received response to the sent availability requests.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
sending a text message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses for which no response was received.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
sending a text message to the destination address from the plurality of destination addresses that has an associated value of a valid destination.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein:  
each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses having at least the carrier identifier, the network identifier, a device identifier and a gateway identifier.
14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
generating a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses;  
sending a message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each message being uniquely associated with a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses and including a code from the plurality of codes associated with that destination address;  
receiving a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and  
validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes.
15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
means for sending an availability request to each destination address from a

plurality of destination addresses, the plurality of destination addresses being correlated with a destination party, each destination address including at least a carrier identifier;

means for receiving at least one response to the sent availability requests, each received response being uniquely associated with its own destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each received response indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address; and

means for recording, for each received response; a value associated with the destination address associated with that received response, the value indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address based on the received response associated with that destination address.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

means for sending a text message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses for which no response was received.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

means for sending a text message to the destination address from the plurality of destination addresses that has an associated value of a valid destination.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses having at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier and a device identifier.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses has at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier, a device identifier and a gateway identifier.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
means for adding supplemental information to an electronic message, the supplemental information being associated with self-authentication by the destination party; and  
means for sending the electronic message and the added supplemental information to at least one destination address having an associated received response indicating a valid destination address.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
means for adding a supplemental link to an electronic message, the supplemental link being associated with a self-authentication service adapted to authenticate the destination party; and  
means for sending the electronic message and the added supplemental information to at least one destination address having an associated received response indicating a valid destination address.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
means for generating a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses;  
means for sending a message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each message being uniquely associated with a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses and including a code from the plurality of codes associated with that destination address;  
means for receiving a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and  
means for validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

means for generating a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each code being uniquely associated with a time of being generated;

means for receiving a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and

means for validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes, the validated destination address indicating a carrier identifier, a network identifier and the time of the code being generated.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions

when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

send an availability request to each destination address from a plurality of destination addresses, the plurality of destination addresses being correlated with a destination party, each destination address including at least a carrier identifier;

receive at least one response to the sent availability requests, each received response being uniquely associated with its own destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each received response indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address; and

record, for each received response, a value associated with the destination address associated with that received response, the value indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address based on the received response associated with that destination address.

25. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, having an additional instruction stored thereon, the additional instruction when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

send a text message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses for which no response was received.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, having an additional instruction stored thereon, the additional instruction when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

send a text message to the destination address from the plurality of destination addresses that has an associated value of a valid destination.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein:

each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses has at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier and a device identifier.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein:

each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses has at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier, a device identifier and a gateway identifier.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, having additional instructions stored thereon, the additional instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

add supplemental information to an electronic message, the supplemental information being associated with self-authentication by the destination party; and

send the electronic message and the added supplemental information to at least one destination address having an associated received response indicating a valid destination address.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, having additional instructions stored thereon, the additional instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to:  
add a supplemental link to an electronic message, the supplemental link being associated with a self-authentication service adapted to authenticate the destination party; and

send the electronic message and the added supplemental information to at least one destination address having an associated received response indicating a valid destination address.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, having additional instructions stored thereon, the additional instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to:  
generate a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses;

send a message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each message being uniquely associated with a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses and including a code from the plurality of codes associated with that destination address;

receive a self authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes.

32. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, having additional instructions stored thereon, the additional instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

generate a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each code being uniquely associated with a time of being generated;

receive a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and

validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes, the validated destination address indicating a carrier identifier, a network identifier and the time of the code being generated.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for obtaining a valid international destination address, comprising:

determining a carrier type based on a requested address associated with a destination party;

determining, when the determined carrier type is a single-match carrier type, a destination address associated with the destination party and being a valid destination address; and

validating, when the determined carrier type is a multiple-match carrier type; a plurality of candidate destination addresses associated with the destination party.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

determining a destination country associated with the requested address; and

verifying that the requested address is not an invalid address based on at least a portion of the requested address and based on at least one predetermined invalid address associated with the determined destination country.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the multiple-match carrier type includes at least one from the group of an embedded-carrier-information destination address and portable destination address.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said validating includes:

sending an availability request to each candidate destination address from a plurality of candidate destination addresses, the plurality of candidate destination addresses being correlated with a destination party;

receiving at least one response to the sent availability requests, each received response being uniquely associated with its own candidate destination address from the plurality of candidate destination addresses, each received response indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address; and

recording, for each received response, a value associated with the candidate destination address associated with that received response, the value indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address based on the received response associated with that candidate destination address.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

sending a text message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses for which no response was received.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein:

sending a text message to the destination address from the plurality of destination addresses that has an associated value of a valid destination.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein:

each candidate destination address from the plurality of candidate destination addresses having at least a carrier identifier, a network identifier, a device identifier and a gateway identifier.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said validating includes:

generating a plurality of codes each being uniquely associated with each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses;

sending a message to each destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, each message being uniquely associated with a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses and including a code from the plurality of codes associated with that destination address;

receiving a self-authentication message from a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses, the self-authentication message having a code value; and

validating a destination address from the plurality of destination addresses based on the code value of the self-authentication message corresponding to a code from the plurality of codes.

41. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

determine a carrier type based on a requested address associated with a destination party;

determine, when the determined carrier type is a single-match carrier type, a destination address associated with the destination party and being a valid destination address; and

validate, when the determined carrier type is a multiple-match carrier type, a plurality of candidate destination addresses associated with the destination party.

42. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, having additional instructions stored thereon, the additional instructions when executed by a computer cause the computer to:

determine a destination country associated with the requested address; and

verify that the requested address is not an invalid address based on at least a portion of the requested address and based on at least one predetermined invalid address associated with the determined destination country.

43. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the multiple-match carrier type includes at least one from the group of an embedded-carrier-information destination address and portable destination address.

44. (Withdrawn) A method for determining an international destination address, comprising:  
receiving text message having a requested address without a network identifier, the requested address being associated with a destination party at a destination network different from a source network;  
automatically determining a proper destination address based on the requested address, the destination address including a network identifier and a device identifier; and sending the text message to the determined destination address.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein the destination address further includes a carrier identifier and a gateway identifier.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the destination address further includes a plurality of device-capability identifiers

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein said automatically determining the proper destination address further includes the following:  
determining a carrier type based on a requested address associated with a destination party;  
determining, when the determined carrier type is a single-match carrier type, a destination address associated with the destination party and being a valid destination address; and validating, when the determined carrier type is a multiple-snatch carrier type, a plurality of candidate destination addresses associated with the destination party.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein:

said sending the text message includes sending the text message to the proper destination address from the plurality of candidate destination addresses that are validated by said validating.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein said validating includes the following:

- sending an availability request to each candidate destination address from a plurality of candidate destination addresses, the plurality of candidate destination addresses being correlated with a destination party;
- receiving at least one response to the sent availability requests, each received response being uniquely associated with its own candidate destination address from the plurality of candidate destination addresses, each received response indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address; and
- recording, for each received response, a value associated with the candidate destination address associated with that received response, the value indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address based on the received response associated with that candidate destination address.

50. (Withdrawn) A method for developing a universal address-recognition database having a plurality of prefixes, comprising:

- reading a database having a plurality of prefixes, each prefix being associated with an operating company and a network type;
- mapping, for each prefix from a subset of prefixes from the plurality of prefixes, the associated operating company and associated network type to a current carrier identifier and a current network identifier, respectively, based on at least one public carrier map; and
- dynamically updating, for each remaining prefix from the plurality of prefixes, an associated current carrier identifier and a current network identifier.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein said dynamically updating includes the following:

    sending an availability request to each candidate destination address from a plurality of candidate destination addresses, the plurality of candidate destination addresses being correlated with a destination party;

    receiving at least one response to the sent availability requests, each received response being uniquely associated with its own candidate destination address from the plurality of candidate destination addresses, each received response indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address; and

    recording, for each received response, a value associated with the candidate destination address associated with that received response, the value indicating one from the group of a valid destination address and an invalid destination address based on the received response associated with that candidate destination address.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein said dynamically updating includes the following:

    determining a carrier type based on a requested address associated with a destination party;

    determining, when the determined carrier type is a single-match carrier type, a destination address associated with the destination party and being a valid destination address; and

    validating, when the determined carrier type is a multiple-match carrier type, a plurality of candidate destination addresses associated with the destination party.

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53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein said dynamically updating includes the following:

    determining a destination country associated with the requested address; and

verifying that the requested address is not an invalid address based on at least a portion of the requested address and based on at least one predetermined invalid address associated with the determined destination country.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein the multiple-match carrier type includes at least one from the group of an embedded-carrier-information destination address and portable destination address.